

Gullit brings good news for Milan



PARIS, Mar 16: Ruud Gullit, the inspiration of AC Milan's European Cup triumph in 1989 and 1990, has recovered from injury in time for Wednesday's champions league match against FC Porto, reports AFP.

At 30 with suspect knees, the Dutch midfielder is no longer the force he once was but his return couldn't have come at a better time for the Italian champions.

The aura of invincibility that had surrounded Fabio Capello's team all season has been shattered by last Wednesday's domestic cup defeat by Roma and the way they allowed Lazio to pull back to draw from two goals down in Sunday's league match.

And Capello is well aware that Porto's quality defies their poor results so far in Group B of the Champions Cup semi-final series.

When the sides clashed two weeks ago, a superb 20-yard volley by France's Jean-Pierre Papin gave Milan two points but they could easily have come away from Porto with nothing.

Frank Rijkaard, who has taken over Gullit's role as the lynchpin of the Milanese side, is still injured, as is fullback Mauro Tasotti and Croat midfielder Zvonimir Boban. Dejan Savicevic, however, is expected to be fit after missing the Lazio match with a throat infection.

Porto will be without defender Jorge Almeida Costa, who is suspended.

The Netherlands' PSV Eindhoven, like Porto out of the running in the group, travel to IFK Gothenburg without injured Romanian sweeper Giga Popescu.

Having beaten PSV 3-1 on their own ground, the Swedish

champions will be confident of continuing their unexpected challenge to Milan in the group.

Group A is much tighter with Olympique Marseille, Rangers and FC Bruges all still in contention.

Rangers could be without four key players for Bruges' visit to Glasgow. Former England right-back Gary Stevens is definitely out because of a long-standing foot injury, while Scotland left-back David Robertson is doubtful with a hamstring strain.

Captain Richard Gough and midfielder Ian Ferguson are both unlikely to play but goalkeeper Andy Goram, outstanding against the Belgians in the 1-1 draw two weeks ago, is recovering from influenza and should make it.

Bruges also have problems. Central defender Alex Quarter is suspended and two of his possible replacements, Australian Paul Okon and Pascal Plovie, are both ruled out with injuries. Coach Hugo Boss is expected to name Hungarian Laszlo Dizsi as stand in for Quarter.

Despite their injury problems, Rangers will be favourites to win in front of the passionate Ibrox Park crowd.

Marseille entertain CSKA Moscow aware that the Russian champions are improving with every match after coming out of their winter hibernation.

The French champions have still to resolve the defensive problems that saw them let a point slip in a 1-1 draw against an exhausted CSKA two weeks ago in Berlin.

The pace and aggression of Basile Boli has been sorely missed but the big central defender is very unlikely to have recovered in time from his knee operation in time for Wednesday's match.

Marseille have scored only

once in their last three matches, despite being in control of all of them.

"We have had difficulty killing off matches," the club's midfield organiser, Didier Deschamps, conceded.

Striking partners Alen Boksic and Rudi Voller team up again after injury problems

In the Cup Winners Cup all four quarter-final ties look fairly open after tight first legs.

Russia's Spartak Moscow are in the best position having beaten Feyenoord 1-0 in the Netherlands.

Home advantage should give Italy's Parma the edge over Sparta Prague after a goalless first leg. Romania's Steaua Bucharest are in an identical position against Antwerp of Belgium while Olympiakos and Atletico Madrid play in the Spanish capital Thursday after a 1-1 draw in Greece.

In the UEFA Cup, two giants of European football, Ajax Amsterdam and Juventus, could be on their way out.

Ajax have a mountain to climb at home to pull back a 4-2 deficit against France's Auxerre. The French side will be without defender Stephane Mazziotti, who did an effective marking job on Holland striker Dennis Bergkamp in the first leg.

Juventus meanwhile trail 2-1 to Benfica and the Italian side's 2-0 league defeat to lowly Brescia on Sunday did not augur well. After Sunday's embarrassing coach Giovanni Trapattoni accused his side of playing like bored workers on a factory chain.

Real Madrid will also be trying to forget disappointing league form. They could only manage a 2-2 draw with Logrones on Sunday but with a 3-1 cushion should be 100 per cent good for Paris Saint German in the French capital on Thursday.

Switzerland striker Stephane Chapuisat and his striking partner Michael Rummenigge are both doubtful for Borussia Dortmund's home clash with As Roma on Thursday. The Italians are defending a single goal advantage from the first leg.



RUUD GULLIT

and coach Raymond Oethals expects that will bring an improvement on the finishing front.

"The problem is only temporary. It would be a lot more worrying if we hadn't been creating chances," he said.

CSKA arrived in France on Monday and coach Gennadi Kostlev was confident his side would pose Marseille serious problems.

"We have trained twice a day since March 9," he said.

"We will be much stronger on Wednesday and we have every reason to hope for a good result against a team that, frankly, lacks a bit of imagination," he said.



New Zealand cricketers celebrating their five-wicket victory over Australia in the third and final Test in Auckland yesterday. It was the first home win for the Kiwis in three years. — AFP photo.

Kiwis restore badly battered pride

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Mar 16: Ken Rutherford hit an unbeaten 53 to steer New Zealand to victory by five wickets — and a share of the series — in the third and final Test against Australia on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

New Zealand resumed on the fifth and last day needing just 33 more runs to win with five wickets in hand after a see-saw match.

Rutherford and wicket-keeper Tony Blain took only 29 minutes to reach the target of 201, with Blain finishing on 24 not out.

The victory New Zealand's first home Test win for three years, levelled the series 1-1 after Australia won the first Test by a innings and 60 runs in Christchurch and the second Test was drawn in Wellington.

Rutherford top-scored for New Zealand in both innings of a gripping show-stopping Test, making 43 in the first innings.

Two New Zealanders, pace bowler Danny Morrison, who took six for 37 in Australia's disastrous first innings on Friday, and Rutherford, shared the man-of-the-match award.

The die was cast on the first day when Morrison's swing deliveries cut through Australia's batting line-up. Steven Waugh top-scored with 41 and nine wickets had fallen before rain stopped play at tea.

New Zealand's batsmen replied with 224, a modest lead of 85 that Australia should have overhauled easily. Instead Dipak Patel, an off-spinner opening the bowling, struck five times.

"Good knocks from David Boon, Damien Martyn and captain Allan Border took Australia to 285 all out a lead of 200 that Australian manager Bobby Simpson appeared content with.

New Zealand's batsmen, however, reacted in confident vein, with opener Mark Greatbatch setting the tone by slamming pace bowler Craig McDermott for six and becoming involved in some unsavoury clashes with paceman Merv Hughes.

Match officials decided not to take any action over the incidents, one of which included Hughes spitting in Greatbatch's direction. Australian coach Bobby Simpson refused to comment on the incidents, saying they had been forgotten.

Match referee Javed Burki said the incidents were "a bit of fun".

Greatbatch and veteran John Wright gave New Zealand a solid start, scoring 29 and 33 respectively and the middle



K RUTHERFORD

order gave some support.

However, legspinner Shane Warne, the star of the three-Test series, grabbed the vital wickets of Andrew Jones and captain Martin Crowe, and play closed on the fourth day with New Zealand just 33 runs short of their target with five wickets in hand.

Rutherford, who has developed into a world class batsman in the past 12 months, batted confidently to knock of the runs quickly in front of a 7,000-strong crowd admitted free for the brief victory.

by opener John Wright's announcement that he was now retiring.

Wright, 38, has scored more than 5,000 runs for New Zealand since his debut in 1987. He is one of the most popular cricketers in New Zealand, and he was applauded loudly by journalists at the end of a news conference.

Australian captain Allan Border said his bowlers were paying the price of non-stop cricket since last August.

He said pace bowler Craig McDermott would be returning to Australia on Wednesday for a hernia operation, but that he should be fit for the Ashes tour of England later this year.

Batsman Justin Langer would also be flown home, missing the five-match series of one-day internationals against New Zealand over the next two weeks.

Batsman Dean Jones and allrounder Tony Dodemaide would be flown out to New Zealand to replace them, Border said.

"We have got to get back to the basics with our bowling. As a unit we have not really fired," said Border, who became the world's top Test run scorer during the first Test in Christchurch.

Playing constant top-class cricket was taking its toll, he said. "We are professionals but it's difficult to maintain the intensity day by day."

TINGE OF SADNESS

New Zealand's delight at their first home victory since they beat Australia in March 1990 was tinged with sadness

John Wright bid adieu

AUCKLAND, Mar 16: Veteran New Zealand batsman John Wright, described by his team coach as a "true gutsy Kiwi", announced on Tuesday he was retiring from all first-class cricket, reports Reuter.

Wright, 38, announced he was calling it a day after New Zealand's five-wicket victory in the third and final Test against Australia on his home ground at Auckland's Eden Park.

to take his place.

New Zealand coach Warren Lees paid tribute to Wright, saying, "I will always remember him as a true, gutsy Kiwi".

Age and the modern game finally caught up with Wright on Monday as New Zealand chased 200 to beat Australia. Looking in remarkably aggressive form, Wright chased a quick single and looked to have made it.

But umpire Chris King called in the third umpire, who watches television replay of the incident and then flashes a red or green light to indicate whether the batsman is out. Wright was given out for 33, although the decision was very close.

"I got a ticket from the third umpire this morning telling me how I was out. It definitely wasn't a speeding ticket," Wright joked.

The Eden Park crowd, aware it was the opener's last match, rose to their feet to applaud Wright as he trudged off the field, his bat raised.

"It hasn't happened to me before... amazing really, the age of technology. You're just waiting around for a light to show, at the very least I expected to be beamed off the ground," he said of the red light decision.

Although in the twilight of his career, Wright averaged 47.4 during the three Tests against Australia, scoring 237 runs and providing much-needed backbone for New Zealand's fragile batting.

Wright captained New Zealand for three years from 1988 and stepped in as a volunteer when several New Zealand batsmen returned home from Sri Lanka this year after a bomb explosion near the team hotel.



JOHN WRIGHT



JOHN WRIGHT retires

In his 82-Test career which began in 1978, Wright scored 5,334 runs at an average of 37.82. Only Sir Richard Hadlee, with 86 Test matches, has played more games.

Wright, known as a stubborn unglamorous left-handed opening bat, said he had known since the start of the year that he would retire.

"I feel comfortable stopping now," he said, adding that he would retire from all first class cricket to allow young players

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and last day of the third and final Test between New Zealand and Australia on Tuesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 139 (D Morrison 6-37)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 224 (S Warne 4-8)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 285 (D Martyn 74, A Border 71, D Boon 53, D Patel 5-93)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 168 for five)

J Wright run out 33
M Greatbatch b Hughes 29
A Jones b Warne 26
M Crowe c Langer b Warne 25
K Rutherford not out 53
C Harris lbw b Waugh 0
T Blain not out 24
Extras: (lb-10, nb-1) 11
Total: (Five wickets) 201
Fall of wickets: 1-44; 2-65; 3-109; 4-129; 5-134.

Bowling: O M R W
McDermott 12 3 38 0
Hughes 15.4 2 54 1
Warne 27 8 54 2
Reiffel 6 1 19 0
Waugh 6 1 15 1
Border 6 1 11 0

Result: New Zealand won by five wickets

First Test: Australia won by an innings and 60 runs

Second Test: Drawn

Series drawn 1-1.

Match officials decided not to take any action over the incidents, one of which included Hughes spitting in Greatbatch's direction. Australian coach Bobby Simpson refused to comment on the incidents, saying they had been forgotten.

Match referee Javed Burki said the incidents were "a bit of fun".

Greatbatch and veteran John Wright gave New Zealand a solid start, scoring 29 and 33 respectively and the middle

Surfeit sours Aussie palate

AUCKLAND, Mar 16: Australian cricket managers are worried that too much cricket and an over-emphasis on pace bowling could be damaging the national team before this year's Ashes cricket tour of England, reports Reuter.

Australian team manager Bobby Simpson said on Tuesday after his team's five-wicket defeat by New Zealand that Australia seemed to be producing only fast bowlers.

"I am concerned about the lack of swing bowlers. It gets back to the focus on pace and pace alone. If you bowl shorter there is less chance of getting a wicket," Simpson told reporters.

The former Australian captain said he would take a squad of 17 players of England to try to retain the Ashes Australia have held since 1989. "We will

be taking a lot of new faces," he said.

Simpson said New Zealand had proved during the tied three-match Test tour that swing bowlers could win matches.

Danny Morrison and Willie Watson, neither dangerously fast, took 12 wickets between them in the match.

Captain Allan Border said the non-stop cricket Australia have played since last August was taking its mental and physical toll.

"You have to keep the emotions and the intensity going but it's difficult to keep it going," he said.

Australia's batsmen also have problems. "I don't think they've scored a century in five matches," Simpson said.

Border said he would like to see the team's most consistent batsman, David Boon, return to the number three spot, and Dean Jones, one of the team's

most experienced players, was being flown out to New Zealand for the five-one-day games.

Jones could provide some much-needed support for Australia's batting. Players like Mark Taylor, Justin Langer and Damien Martyn were unconvinced throughout the New Zealand tour.

The one bright spot in Australia's play in New Zealand has been the performance of young leg-spinner Shane Warne, who took 17 Test wickets in the three New Zealand matches.

Warne, widely praised by New Zealand players as one of the most promising bowlers on the world scene at the moment, has maturity on the cricket field beyond his 23 years.

He continually troubled New Zealand's best batsmen with a consistent line and length and a variety of deliveries.

Astrid Strauss goes through medical tests

BONN, Mar 16: German swimmer Astrid Strauss, who blames a positive drug test on beer, has undergone medical tests to check whether a heavy-drinking session could have caused her body to produce performance-enhancing substances, reports Reuter.

The former world champion, fighting an 18-month ban imposed after high levels of the male hormone testosterone were found in her urine, went into quarantine in the last week of February, the German Swimming Federation (DSV) said on Monday.

The timing of the tests in the German town of Singen was kept secret because of the media attention surrounding the affair which has been a major embarrassment to German swimming.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Md Abdul Hossain scored goals for Mirpur XI who swept aside Nabodoy Sunday by seven goals to nil in the Janata Bank Pioneer football league at the Mirpur Outer Stadium yesterday.

Md Shah Alam netted the other two goals for the winners.

Mirpur Sports, Physical and Cultural Centre (MSPPCC) beat Surja Shukha Sangsad by two goals to nil in the other match at the venue.

Nasim and Md Hassan were the scorers.

Noor Hossain scored a hat-trick yesterday at the Bashabo ground to power Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan and Krira Parishad to a convincing four-nil victory against Manda Sangsad.

Bablu got the other goal for the victors.

Mottajcel T & T Club defeated Kendrio Kishore Kafila by four goals to nil in the other match at the venue.

Ashish netted twice and Abdul Kalam Azad and Matul Islam once each for T&T Club.

Lalbahar Krira Chakra beat Azimpur Heroes by two goals to nil at the Outer Stadium.

Monir Hossain and Mamun Hossain were the scorers.

Brazilians want it for keeps

MELBOURNE, Mar 16: Brazil's youth team are on a mission to win the Under-20 world title for a third time, take the cup home permanently and emulate their illustrious elders, reports AFP.

Tournament favourites Brazil take on host nation Australia in a semi-final before a 20,000 full house here Wednesday, just one match away from a third title following their wins in 1983 and 1985.

If the Brazilians win the World Youth Crown a third time they will take home the cup just like the senior side did when they won the World Cup for a third time in the Pelé era in Mexico in 1970.

Brazil moved consummately into the last four on Sunday with a 3-0 victory over the United States in Adelaide, in a quarter-final showcasing the silky skills of playmaker Adriano, Cate and Gian.

Australia, in their second consecutive youth semi-final and fast gaining a world reputation at this level, entertained Brazil in a four-match series last December as a pipe-opener to the World Youth Championship.

Australia and Brazil each won a match, the other two were drawn, with the series being decided on penalties 5-4 to the South Americans — sig-

nificantly Adriano, Cate and Bruno, a two-goal scorer in Adelaide last weekend, did not make the trip.

Australia has beaten two other South American teams at the Championship, 2-1 over Colombia and 2-1 against Uruguay in last Saturday's quarter-final that was decided by sudden death extra time.

Interest is intense here with the ground sold out for the first time since Australia's World Cup qualifying match with Scotland in 1985.

alright to take his place after appearing to favour his bandaged right knee, injured in an earlier match.

There are fitness doubts on England pair, striker Nick Barby and defender Andy Myers, who were both replaced before half-time in England's penalty shoot out win over Mexico in Sunday's quarter-final.

Barby has shin and knee trouble while Myers has bruised toes.

Coach David Burnside said defiantly Tuesday: "They're 90 per cent fit and any stories in the press which suggest otherwise are totally unfounded."

GHANA MOTIVATED

In Sydney Wednesday, Ghana takes on England in the other semi-final with the Ghanaians aiming to use their performance as an argument for FIFA to increase the African representation in the next World Youth Cup to three from a current two in line with Africa's extra place for the 1994 World Cup finals in the US.

"I'm hoping our performance here will convince FIFA that Africa should also be given a third place in future youth finals," said Ghana coach Fred Duodu Tuesday.

Ghana has captured the imagination of the tournament with their flamboyant style, most recently their 3-0 destruction of Russia here last Saturday.

Duodu said that star midfielder Nii Lamptey would be

BOA to get rights to Olympic symbol

LONDON, Mar 16: Britain said it plans to pass a law safeguarding its rights to the Olympic symbol of five interlocking rings, an essential move if Manchester is to host the 2000 Games, reports Reuter.

Peter Brooke, secretary of State for National Heritage, said he proposed to confer the British rights to the symbol to the British Olympic Association (BOA) under a bill to be introduced to parliament as soon as possible.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pirates' potato

5 Ostentatious display

9 Rotary part

12 Roman historian

13 Brilliantly colored fish

14 Neighbor of Ga.

15 Thing Tinkerbell's handful

16 Spanish preposition

18 Word before storm or yard

19 Yalie

20 Top

21 Football fill

23 Curve

25 Spectrum producers

28 Long cigar

32 It's from the heart

33 Lost cause

34 "— for Living" (Coward comedy)

DOWN

7 Frenzied one

8 Third deg.?

9 Dog-patch's "founder"

10 Hand-lotion additive

11 "Duck Soup" star

20 Cousin of 4 Down

22 Mirror's offering

24 Rees or Corman

25 Launch site

26 Fish eggs

27 A taxing org.

29 "Cat — Hot Tin Roof"

30 Profit

31 "Chances —"

35 Beginner

36 Inset upon

39 Slime

40 Bread, in Bordeaux

41 Impulse

43 Press agent?

45 Monster

46 Great joy

47 Took to court

49 Backtalk

Solution time: 27 mins.

WED TRIG WHET
ALT ROLE HOLE
DISCIPLINE APSE
TRAY FLEES
FERAL PULE
ITEM DISORDER
NUS PULSE IVY
DISHONOR ISEE
ASST GOALS
BRUSH PUNG
RANT DISPENSE
AIDE DRIP EAR
ELON EASY EGG

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
18				19				20			
			21	22			23	24			
25	26	27					28		29	30	31
32								33			
34				35				36			
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39	40	41			42	43		44	45	46	47
48				49				50			
51				52				53			
54				55				56			

CRYPTOQUIP

O Z D Z G A Y D K U U L R S D S

Z V V D Z W V K F S T W P O Z

K G T V D P W V Q D T R Z G Y

Q P V K T Z A K F S

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I MARRIED THE BRILLIANT SCULPTOR BECAUSE HE PUT ME ON A PED-ESTAL.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals T

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.